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# 04/19/1999 - EIU Trustees Give Campus Master Plan Nod of Approval

University Marketing and Communications

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April 19, 1999

For Immediate Release:

**EIU TRUSTEES GIVE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN NOD OF APPROVAL**

CHARLESTON - Eastern Illinois University's Board of Trustees today gave approval to a campus master plan that will provide direction to the future development of the university's physical infrastructure, including buildings, grounds, streets and parking lots. The purpose of the campus master plan is to ensure that Eastern's grounds and buildings support and enhance the university's mission and programs. The plan considers issues such as deferred maintenance, space allocation, facility functionality, vehicular and pedestrian transit, landscaping and architectural standards, and overall campus layout and design.

The campus master plan has been under development for the past nine months by a university committee, chaired by trustee Tom Johnson of Rockford, representing students, faculty, staff, the university administration and Eastern's Board of Trustees. During this period, university and consulting master planners met with a wide variety of academic departments, support offices and university and community groups in more than 50 individual meetings to receive input used in the preparation of the plan.

Jeff Conroy of Sizemore, Floyd, Conroy Architects of Chicago, the consulting firm working alongside university planners, presented the proposed campus master plan to the trustees at their April 19, 1999 meeting in Charleston. The campus master plan was recommended by the committee based on research designed to help the university determine its current and future needs; enhance university life; support the university's mission, policies and standards; and guide the university's future physical development.

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"We worked quickly but deliberately, making broad-based decisions with consensus among all committee members," said Conroy. "We considered hundreds of ideas and suggestions received at the many meetings held with various stakeholders over the nine-month process, as well as a variety of suggestions submitted to the committee following the two town meetings held to update the campus community on the draft plan's status. The campus master plan presented today provides Eastern with a roadmap to future development," Conroy noted.

"We feel particularly good about this planning effort because of our work with the campus community and the City of Charleston, which is also developing a master plan," said Ted Weidner, Eastern's director of facilities planning and management.

Potential projects, estimated at \$435 million, outlined in the campus master plan include:

- Expansion of the Doudna Fine Arts Center, which may require the closure of parts of Seventh Street on campus and the demolition of Buzzard House and the Clinical Services Building. Seventh Street would become part of the university's core campus and would be landscaped and closed to all but pedestrians and service vehicles. New locations would be found for Eastern's Counseling Center and Student Health Service.
- The construction of a new science building to house the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Communication Disorders and Sciences and Psychology, as well as the College of Sciences Dean's Office. The current Physical Sciences Building would be rehabilitated to house the Departments of Geology/Geography and Physics.
- Improving pedestrian access and safety throughout the campus, a guiding principle of the campus master plan. Existing conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles would be reduced or eliminated with the construction of several new parking lots and the closure of some internal campus streets. In addition, campus "green space" would be improved and expanded to further accentuate Eastern as an extraordinarily beautiful and welcoming college campus.
- Desirable locations for any new or enhanced student housing are identified on the east side of campus, including suite housing south of the Tarble Arts Center and apartments between Ninth and Tenth streets. In addition, the master plan includes a potential location for another building in Greek Court to address the demand for Greek housing.
- Moving the Textbook Rental Service from its existing location in Pemberton Hall to a new location, either north of Greek Court where a new self-service facility could be

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constructed economically, or to an addition proposed for the east side of the Martin Luther King, Junior University Union.

- Increasing and enhancing campus green space by removing the existing Student Services Building, and constructing a new student services facility that would bring together many of the functions that students presently find spread throughout the campus.
- Improving recreation and athletic areas on the east and west sides of campus. These improvements would further the master plan's guiding principle of delineating academic, administrative, residential and recreational zones of the campus.
- In the ultimate phase of development (ten to fifteen years from now), additional space for athletics and recreation, including a Convocation Center west of Fourth Street on Lincoln Avenue and an addition to the Lantz Building. This area would provide for special event parking and host a suggested life-long learning center and a campus visitor's center. New Alumni Association and EIU Foundation facilities also could be located in this area.
- Finally, the campus master plan recommends the relocation of some existing parking lots away from the campus core, in order to improve safety and to enhance campus beauty and utility. The plan also contemplates the addition of more parking spaces, resulting in a net addition of 1,400 parking spaces over the fifteen-plus year time period covered by the plan.

For more information, visit the campus master plan web site:  
<http://www.eiu.edu/~mstrplan/>